

ALEXANDER SHOWCASE THEATRE

Shakespeare is Love.

THE PLAY



BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY
MARC NORMAN & TOM STOPPARD

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY
LEE HALL

MUSIC BY
PADDY CUNNEEN

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON THE WEST END BY DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS & SONIA FRIEDMAN
PRODUCTIONS, DIRECTED BY DECLAN DONNELLAN, AND DESIGNED BY NICK ORMEROD



Producers: Vincenzo and Gwyneth Sestito

Director: Vincenzo Sestito

Music Director: Gwyneth Sestito

Choreographer: Emma Bradford-Wilson

Stage Manager: Laurice Macaraeg

April 24-May 3, 2026

Fairview Library Theatre

35 Fairview Mall Drive, Toronto, ON M2J 4S4

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DURING THE PERFORMANCE.**

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behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*

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CAST

Will Shakespeare	Steve Morrow
Kit Marlowe	Chris Tanaka-Mann
Viola de Lesseps/Thomas Kent	Daina Zweig
Nurse	Audrey Amar
Sir Robert de Lesseps	Reg Good
Lord Wessex	Tommy Amoroso
Boatman	Ashley Sarilla
Henslowe	Matt Dolgin
Fennyman	David McEachern
Lambert	Daniel Eido
Frees	Steve Kyriacopoulos
Ralph	Robert Follows
Robin	Jonathan Zur
John Webster	Devon Beauregard
Wabash	Gillian Scott
Nol	Sophie Mackay
Ned Alleyn	Christopher Shackleton
Sam	Arad Judy
Richard Burbage	Darrell Hicks
Spot, The Dog	Calvino
Mistress Quickly	Cheryl Lee
Lord Edmund Tilney	Seth Mukamal
Queen Elizabeth I	Brenda Massey-Beauregard
Bar Keep	Abigail de Niverville
Kate	Stephanie de Pol
Molly	Sophie Klassen
Ensemble	Devon Beauregard, Abigail de Niverville, Stephanie de Pol, Daniel Eido, Robert Follows, Shannon Halliwell-MacDonald, Arad Judy, Sophie Klassen, Steve Kyriacopoulos, Cheryl Lee, Sophie Mackay, Noam Postavsky, Ashley Sarilla, Gillian Scott, Jonathan Zur

BAND

Bassoon/Accordion/Vocalist	Shannon Halliwell-MacDonald
Guitar/Vocalist	Don MacDonald
Oboe	Abigail de Niverville
Recorder/Oboe	Noam Postavsky
Vocalist - Male Alto	James Dyck

CREW

Producers	Vincenzo and Gwyneth Sestito
Director	Vincenzo Sestito
Music Director	Gwyneth Sestito
Choreographer	Emma Bradford-Wilson
Stage Manager	Laurice Macaraeg
Assistant Stage Manager	Eugene Fong Dere
Set Design/Head Builder	Peter Thorman
Set Paint Design/Head Painter	Len Calderon
Floral Design	Tamara Davitiani, Million Flowers
Set Crew Chief	Christopher Shackleton
Set Assembly/Painting	Cast, family and friends
Lighting Designer/Technician	Hussein Esmail
Lighting Designer/Operator	Charlotte Théraud
Lighting Technicians	Connor Paterson and Clay Warner
Props Manager/Creation	Emma Bradford-Wilson
Props Assistant	Laurel Mayhew
Costume Design/Creation	Gwyneth Sestito and Cheryl Lee
Queen's Wig Styling	Stephanie de Pol
Fight Choreography and Intimacy Coordinator	Brianna Love
Printer	H&E Copy
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Front of House Volunteers	Helena Aalto, Anne Armstrong, Danny Firestone, Theo Heras, Cara Sestito

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In Shakespeare's day, women were not permitted to appear on the stage. A woman caught on the theatrical stage would be arrested for public indecency and thrown into jail for prostitution.

The way theatres got around this was to cast male actors who specialized in playing female parts.

Of course, today, we cast as we see fit. This production would be a shadow of itself if we didn't have the freedom to cast women in male parts!

Please be aware that this particular production will have:

Men playing men
Women playing women
Men playing women
Women playing men
and everything in between!

Now isn't that poignant... not to mention fun!

Oh! There is also a dog – played by a dog.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alexander Showcase Theatre wishes to thank the following people and groups whose generosity has helped to make ***Shakespeare In Love*** possible.

The Congregation and Staff of Beth Radom Synagogue
The Staff of Fairview Library Theatre

Fred Hawalesheka, Lee Travaglini, Meredith Wolting, Clay Warner,
Tamara Davitiani – Million Flowers, The Frog and Firkin, Martin's Flowers,
Wendy Jones, Neville Bryant

To our devoted volunteers: without you there would be no show!

We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

CAST



Audrey Amar (*Nurse*)

Two lines proudly mumbled in a preschool play started Audrey's enduring love of theatre. She graduated with honours from U of T's Theatre and Performance Studies practical program, which she was selected to represent at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She specializes in commedia dell'arte, clown, Shakespeare, and armed stage combat.



Tommy Amoroso (*Lord Wessex*)

Tommy is beyond thrilled to be playing Lord Silavanus Wessex (Will's final boss battle), whilst surrounded by such a wonderfully talented cast and creative team. Previous credits with AST include *Hunchback* (ensemble), *Guys & Dolls* (Harry The Horse), *12 Angry Jurors* (Juror #5), *Cinderella* (Sebastian), *Anne of Green Gables* (Olson Fines/Mr Phillips) and *Anything Goes* as Dippy. Tommy is endlessly thankful for the free university training he has been able to receive from AST over the years whilst unburdened by the emotional repercussions associated with most post-secondary theatre programs.



Devon Beauregard (*John Webster, Ensemble*)

Devon has been so excited to be back onstage with AST this spring! Getting to play a little British boy who has psychological problems has been a dream of hers! Don't ask questions. Currently in Grade 11 Drama at Etobicoke School of the Arts, Devon aspires to be a professional actor one day and to play more British boys with psychological problems. Again, don't ask questions. In previous years, Devon has been in *Anything Goes* and *Anne of Green Gables* with AST, as well as doing FOH and working props for a few other shows. Devon would like to thank her mother, Queen Elizabeth I, for driving her to rehearsals even when the Queen wasn't called, and for being super awesome. She would also like to thank Vinnie, Gwyneth, Emma, Laurice, and the entire crew (and cast) for making her odd dreams come to life in a super awesome way! And to Shakespeare: Nyeh-nyeh-nyeh-NYEH..... nyeh. @devonstaged on Instagram :)



Abigail de Niverville (*Oboe, Bar Keep, Ensemble*)
Abigail is thrilled to be in *Shakespeare in Love* as a musician and ensemble member. Back home in New Brunswick, Abigail was part of many community and school productions, including several Shakespeare plays. Some of her favourite roles include *Hero in Much Ado About Nothing*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Marmee in *Little Women*. Since moving to Toronto over ten years ago, Abigail has not had a chance to dip her toe into theatre...until now. She's very appreciative of the cast and crew for making her return to stage so welcoming and enjoyable. By day, she works at a not-for-profit and has also released several young adult novels.



Stephanie De Pol (*Kate, Ensemble*)
Good morrow, everyone! Stephanie De Pol is thrilled to joining AST once again, performing as Kate, Adam/Benvolio, and ensemble. Although she attended school for computer engineering, her passion lies in the arts. When she is not participating in community theater, she does production work for an advertising agency, teaches dance at Randolph Kids, and performs with the Toronto *Rocky Horror* shadow cast. She previously performed as an ensemble member and dancer in Thaumatrope Theatre's production of *Hair*, and AST's previous show, *Little Shop of Horrors*! She sends her love to her boyfriend, Anthony, and to her pet parrot, Waffle.



Matt Dolgin (*Henslowe*)
Matt is so excited to bring Henslowe to life on stage in his 5th show with AST. During the day Matt works as a Rehab Support Worker and Personal Support Worker. At night he mostly plays volleyball or attends a tap dancing class at Joy of Dance! When he's not doing any of those things, you'll probably find him singing in one place or another. A massive thank you to the entire cast and crew for bringing their honesty, passion, and skill to this hilarious and beautiful show. Matt is ridiculously appreciative of his wife Lauren for always encouraging him to get back on stage, and for helping him run lines despite busy schedules. He couldn't do this without her.



James Dyck (*Vocalist - Male Alto*)

Singer by night, millwright apprentice by day, Toronto-based countertenor James Dyck's time is flush with wide-ranging interests, running the gamut from period performance to the culinary arts to precision craftsmanship. James completed his voice degree at the University of Toronto, especially excelling in early music repertoire (including Purcell, Handel and Bach). He is a core member of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and sings in various other Toronto based choral ensembles. James is excited to be involved in this production of Shakespeare in Love!



Daniel Eido (*Lambert, Ensemble*)

What an exciting time for Daniel! This will be his very first theatre performance, and who better to do it with than AST? Although he is more familiar with on-screen acting, he's taking a chance with theatre. Daniel doesn't just use tables to torture victims—he also uses them to massage clients. That's right, Daniel is an RMT outside of AST. He moved here from Ottawa two years ago, looking for more opportunities in acting while still remaining close to home. Will he make it as a successful actor? Of course not... he's a dumbass.



Robert Follows (*Ralph, Ensemble*)

Robert is excited to return to the stage for the first time in several years. Having worked behind the scenes on sound for AST's *Little Shop of Horrors* last year, he is excited to be on this side of the boards. Other recent credits include: Stage Manager/Sound designer, *Starship Pinafore* (North Toronto Players), Sound Designer, *Me and You and the Highland Coo* (Happy as a Clam Productions); Deviser/Writer/Mark the Archivist, *45 Minutes* (Be Right Back); Producer/Sound Designer, *Thistle Gardens* (The Nightlight Production). A Multi-faceted Multi-Dabbler, He recently graduated with a BFA in Performance Creation and Research from York University. If you aren't sure what that means, then know that neither is he, despite having a degree in it. When not in the theatre, Robert is an escape room game master, and enjoys playing DnD. He'd like to thank his friends, family, and of course Tara for always coming out to his shows!



Reg Good (*Sir Robert de Lesseps*)

Reg is delighted to share this run with a wonderful group of actors and be guided and inspired to the work by Gwyneth and Vinnie and the dedicated production team. He feels privileged to be among such fine people who enjoy time in each other's company and are a delight to be with. He applauds their commitment to making live theatre and for nurturing a creative community. This has made quite pleasurable Reg's return to the stage after twenty years. Reg has previously been in some Chekhov and Shaw plays with Upstart Crow; new plays with U of Ottawa Theatre Program and the Trinity Drama Society; medieval plays with Poculi Ludique Societas and with the UofT Medieval Studies Department including probably the first performance since 1808 of Ben Jonson's *Every Man Out of His Humour*! His life's sojourn searched after the intersection of sanctuary and theatre for which most illuminating was experience with The Roy Hart Group, and especially Enrique Pardo's Panthéâtre. Reg explored the work through liturgy, experimental theatre and related projects, radio documentaries, and college classroom learning.



Shannon Halliwell-MacDonald (*Bassoon, Accordion, Vocalist, Ensemble*)

Shannon is a multi-instrumentalist, and professional vocalist with a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Western Ontario. She has performed in operas, cabarets, folk bands and has been known to sing in a choir or two (or three!). While Shannon mostly spends her time working her much-loved administrative post at the University of Toronto, she couldn't resist coming back to the theatre when she heard that Shakespeare might love the bassoon! That was all she needed to join this band of merry "men" and "oh, boy!" she's glad she did.

EXTENSION

FITNESS



Darrell Hicks (*Richard Burbage*)

After almost 8 years, Darrell is finally back on the stage. Taking care of a child and going back to school for a career change will really take a lot of your available time. Previous to said change, Darrell had been an avid performer, performing in shows and concerts all over Canada and the U.S.. Some highlights include singing the roles of Hoffmann (*Contes d'Hoffmann*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Javert (*Les Misérables*), and Anthony (*Sweeney Todd*) which was performed with AST in 2000. Darrell is really excited to be finally performing in a play again. His last time was in AST's production of *Lend Me A Tenor*, where he played the role of Tito Mirelli. Thank you and lots of love to Vinnie, Gwyneth, the cast and his family, especially his little princess Lilith.



Arad Judy (*Sam, Ensemble*)

Arad is super excited to play Sam in his first production with Alexander Showcase Theatre. As someone who is extremely passionate about drama, he is a grade 11 student of the Claude Watson Drama program at Earl Haig Secondary School, where he did the school show playing Reverend Parris in *The Crucible* and his grade 10 show playing Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He also played Laertes and ensemble in Charactors Theatre Troupe's production of *The Penelopiad*, all only in 2025. Arad is beyond grateful to be a part of such an awesome cast and extraordinary production, and wants to especially thank Vinnie, Gwyneth, Emma, Laurice, as well as everyone else involved in the magic of AST.



Sophie Klassen (*Molly, Ensemble*)

With a heart devoted to the stage, Sophie takes her place among the players, ready to play her part in this merry tale. Shakespeare in Love marks Sophie's second production with AST, and she is both thrilled and deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented company. Sophie holds a diploma in Acting from Capilano University and a Bachelor of Creative Arts from Yorkville University, where she has continued to develop her craft and deepen her love for storytelling. With a lifelong passion for performance, she is especially drawn to the magic of live theatre and the connection it creates with the audience. Selected previous credits include Ensemble in AST's *Little Shop of Horrors*, Kate in *Legally Blonde*, Mrs. Pearce in *My Fair Lady*, and Gertie in *Fuddy Meers*. Sophie would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to Vinnie and Gwyneth for their continued support and encouragement, and to her family for always inspiring her to follow her dreams.



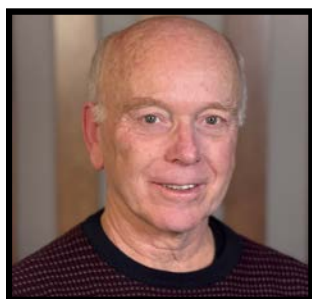
Steve Kyriacopoulos (*Frees, Ensemble*)

Steve has been performing with AST for over 20 years, having started with the Winter Choir in the fall of 2004 and *The Mikado* in 2005. He has played many roles on stage and worn multiple hats behind the scenes (Webmaster, Box Office Coordinator, Producer, Front-of-House). Steve's day job is a database geek in the Children's Mental Health sector and for a little exercise, runs marathons. Thrilled to work with familiar faces and great new talent to this season's amazing production.



Cheryl Lee (*Mistress Quickly, Ensemble, Costume Design/Creation*)

Cheryl has enjoyed fussing with costumes both on and off the stage this year. When she's not creating costumes Cheryl loves to involve herself in all sorts of creative projects, including everything from painting and printmaking, to sewing, knitting and gardening. A big thanks to Dave for his support and for putting up with all of the chaos once again!



Don MacDonald (*Guitar, Vocalist*)

Don is a classically trained guitarist with an ARCT in guitar performance. He has worked as a pit musician, session player and as a musical actor at a variety of theatres in Toronto and at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Fluent in a variety of styles such as classical, rock, jazz and musical theatre, he has performed on electric and acoustic guitar, mandolin, ukulele, bass and banjo. Currently, Don is working on his third album of original works for guitar, playing rock and pop with Trainwreck fronted by Rick Miller, as well as playing with The Governor General's Horse Guards and jazz saxophonist Peter Smith.



Sophie Mackay (*Nol, Ensemble*)

Sophie is thrilled to be in her first AST production. Born and raised in Victoria BC, Sophie developed a passion for acting and singing at a young age. She moved to Toronto to pursue her artistic career and most recently, graduated from Randolph College where she played the role of Hannah in *Arcadia* and understudied the role of Vivienne in *Legally Blonde*. When Sophie is not performing, she's playing guitar or walking the streets of Toronto searching for nature. She hopes you have a jolly good time!



Brenda Massey-Beauregard (*Queen Elizabeth I*)

Brenda is extremely honoured to be part of this beautiful production of *Shakespeare in Love*. Past AST credits: Dowager Empress Maria in *Anastasia*, *Music Hall Revue*, Madame in *Cinderella* and Mrs. Pearce in *Pygmalion*. Other memorable stage appearances: Melissa Gardener in *Love Letters*, Teresa in *The Memory of Water* (Bloor West Village Playhouse), Laurey in *Oklahoma* (York Weston Players) and Isabella/Joyce/ Mrs. Kidd in *Top Girls* (Theatre Sheridan). Brenda's favourite role in life, by far, is as Devon's mom. Love you, kiddo! Thanks to Vinnie, Gwyneth and this amazing cast and crew for making me feel like a Queen. Special shout-out to Cheryl for the fabulous gowns. Vivat Regina!



David McEachern (*Fennyman*)

David McEachern is delighted to be returning to the Alexander Showcase Theatre as Fennyman, having previously been in several roles including Lurch in *The Addams Family*, the Horse in *Cinderella*, the Monster in *Young Frankenstein*, Lt. Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls*, Ernst in *Cabaret* and most recently as himself in *Son of the Horse Lord*. David also has a background in folk, bluegrass and barbershop music. He regularly coaches ensembles and teaches at schools for Barbershop music around the globe.



Steve Morrow (*Will Shakespeare*)

Good gentles all, Steve returns once more unto the stage with AST, now entrusted with somewhat fuller speech than in years past. In this present venture, he doth essay the part of the Bard himself, and humbly prays he may not "strut and fret" amiss upon the hour. He counts it no small mercy that Nature hath granted him a beard fit enough for the purpose, and trusts it serves to mask what faults may yet remain. When not thus occupied in playhouses, he labours in the curious realm of FinTech (with due nod to Affirm), and keeps most dear the company of his betrothed, fair Taryn, and their noble cat, Bean; companions true in all scenes of life, be they comedy or no. He renders heartfelt thanks to Vinnie and Gwyneth for their continued favour, and to his parents, family, and friends for their constant love and support. "If music be the food of love, play on" and pray, enjoy the show.



Seth Mukamal (*Lord Edmund Tilney*)

Seth joined Alexander Showcase Theatre in 1995 performing the role of Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma*. He then refused to leave. Over the last 31 years Seth has performed a wide range of roles including Teyve (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Alfred Doolittle (*My Fair Lady* and *Pygmalion*) and Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*). At the age of eight Seth was given a Kodak Instamatic camera as a gift. Since then he has pursued photography as a lifelong discipline, exploring architecture, street life, and the interplay of light and form. Seth still has the Instamatic. Many thanks to Gwyneth and Vinnie for making this possible.



Noam Postavsky (*Recorder, Oboe, Ensemble*)

Having played in many concerts since starting recorder at age 10, and the oboe at age 12, Noam is excited to be making music in costume for the first time. When not playing music, or making bits of wood produce the right vibrations, he is responsible for making code push digital bits in the right directions. Noam is lucky to share a house with his sister and her family, where he enjoys the musical drumbeat of his nephew running back and forth upstairs.



Ashley Sarilla (*Boatman, Ensemble*)

Ashley trained with LB Studio and Second City in Toronto. His screen work since 2024 includes the Toronto short film *The Heist*, a French-directed short film *Please John Please*, and an unreleased Toronto short film *Biface*, currently delayed by the timeless villain known as "the budget." By day, Ashley works as a Technology auditor in Toronto; by night, he proves that dramatic flair can, in fact, emerge from cyber security and compliance reports. He has traveled through several countries, enthusiastically eating his way through as many cuisines as humanly possible under the noble excuse of "cultural appreciation."

Shakespeare in Love with AST production marks his theatre debut in 2026, considering his previous stage experience consists of some Improv and Runway. He is thrilled to make his theatrical debut alongside incredibly inspiring cast and crew. He will happily continue with the troupe, assuming they don't change the locks. When not working or performing, Ashley plays nearly every sport involving a ball and enjoys video gaming and mountain biking.

"Speak the Speech": Misconceptions about Stuttering

Many portrayals of stuttering in popular media (including *Shakespeare in Love*) can reinforce stereotypes, stigmas, and outdated ideas about people who stutter.

Don't let your knowledge stay stuck in the Elizabethan era!

Stuttering isn't caused by nerves or fear - it is a neurodevelopmental speech difference experienced by millions worldwide.

Not all stuttering will look and sound the same. Stuttering can change over time and across situations.

Fluency is not a measure of intelligence, ability, or creativity. Just ask Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, or Marilyn Monroe!

People who stutter know what they want to say. Support means listening - not speaking for someone.

Want to
learn more?



www.stutteringhelp.org



<https://stutter.ca>



www.weststutter.org



Gillian Scott (*Wabash, Ensemble*)

Gillian is delighted to be back for her second production with AST! Her lifelong love of theatre started at the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival in Vancouver, so she's especially excited to help bring Shakespeare's world to life. When she isn't singing showtunes or cuddling with her cat, Gillian works as a high school Latin teacher (it's not as dead a language as you might think). Selected credits include: *Jekyll and Hyde* (Doctor Bird), *Anastasia* (AST), *A Shakespeareance* (Bard on the Beach), and *Into the Woods*.



Christopher Shackleton (*Ned Alleyn*)

Huzzah! Chris is very grateful to be back for his fifth AST show (after *Anastasia*, *Anything Goes*, *Cinderella*, and *Hunchback of Notre Dame*) and for another chance to showcase skills honed in previous projects, including holding parts of the set in secret! When not in rehearsal or at set building, you might find Chris meal prepping, catching up on *The Pitt*, or finding ways to use his Museum Studies qualifications. Selected shows elsewhere include *Sweeney Todd in Concert*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Legally Blonde*, *ASSASSINS*, and *CABARET*. "The play's the thing!"



Chris Tanaka-Mann (*Kit Marlowe*)

Wherever there is singing to be done in the city of Toronto, you won't find Chris too far away. Between classical and contemporary choral music with Chroma Vocal Ensemble, barbershop-style and other a cappella pop-style singing with Maple Reserve or the Toronto Northern Lights, or private ensemble and solo work, Chris leads a very full life of teaching music by day, practicing music by night. Somewhere in there he manages to squeeze collecting Magic: The Gathering cards, gaming, beard care, and caring for his guinea pigs Juniper and Clove. None of it would be possible without the love and support of his wonderful wife Heather, for whom he is so grateful.

So Chris, again returning to the stage,
Could not be more delighted to be here.
His face betrays the love his heart contains,
Appreciation to the cast and crew.
To Vinnie, and to Gwyneth, and Laurice,
To Emma, Peter, Charlotte, and the rest
And most of all, to you, our audience,
I thank you humbly for your patronage.



Jonathan Zur (*Robin, Ensemble*)

Jonathan Zur made his theatrical debut last year in ASTs production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, mainly credited as "Screeching man in dentist chair". Safe to say, the theater bug bit him, and he is now happy to be returning to the stage with bigger parts and more comprehensible dialogue. Priding himself as a "creative nomad", Jonathan has dabbled in music, stand up comedy, creative writing, game design, visual arts, writing, and now acting. Treating the arts as a hobby, his days consist of his work in Cybersecurity and spending time with his wife, friends, and awesome dog. At his core, he loves to entertain others and explore creative possibilities, and he is thrilled to continue working with AST to explore this passion.



Daina Zweig (*Viola de Lesseps/Thomas Kent*)

Daina is back in her sixth show with AST and is both excited and terrified to be playing the role of Viola De Lesseps. Her previous performances include *Young Frankenstein*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Anything Goes*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. When she's not moonlighting as an actor, Daina works as a social worker in Toronto and is always considering a career change. Have any ideas? GET IN TOUCH. Thank you to my friends, family, and my dear partner Tom, who have generously allowed me to fall off the face of the earth for a few months to prepare for this role. Thanks to Vinnie and Gwyneth for this daring opportunity and for their continued guidance and support. And to this wonderfully warm, inviting and talented cast- I love ya!



Calvino (*Spot*)

Calvino is profoundly honoured to make his theatrical debut with AST. Calvino's artistic journey began as the resilient runt in a high-stakes litter of five—a foundational struggle that informed his nuanced, "underdog" approach to the craft.

Along with an avant-garde, career-long pursuit of his own tail, Calvino remains committed to finding the truth in every moment, whether on the stage or on the leash. He thanks his pack for their unwavering support.



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CREW



Vincenzo Sestito (*Producer, Director*)

Vinnie has been a part of AST since the very beginning and has worn many hats throughout the years, first onstage and eventually behind the scenes. He has directed a number of shows, including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anastasia*, *Anything Goes*, *Cinderella*, *Guys & Dolls*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Pygmalion*, *The Addams Family*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *The Crucible*, and *A Christmas Carol - Radio Play* (co-wrote and directed).



Gwyneth Sestito (*Producer, Music Director, Costumes*)

Gwyneth has played a lot of roles over her years with AST - Singer, Conductor, Producer, and Costumer - and has loved learning the special flavour of each one. In her daily life as a singing teacher, Gwyneth works to stretch and develop her students' voices, challenging them to strive toward new goals and embrace new experiences. Gwyneth has Music Directed numerous shows (including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anastasia*, *Anything Goes*, *Cinderella*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Addams Family*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Sweeney Todd*), she co-wrote and created the musical score for *A Christmas Carol - Radio Play*, and she has designed and built costumes for so many shows that our storage space is overflowing.



Emma Bradford-Wilson (*Choreographer, Props Manager*)

Emma is SO EXCITED to be involved in her third AST production! She has journeyed from *Russian Man*, to *Royal Ghost*, to *Person Eating Plant*, and now on to *Choreographer* and *Props Master*. She is thrilled to voyage into the grand era of gavottes, sword fights, poetry, and dogs, with this gaggle of players! Emma would like to thank her roommates for allowing her to turn the living room into an Elizabethan print shop over the past many months, and for donating all the chopsticks to the paper dying effort. Emma is incredibly grateful to Gwyneth and Vinnie for welcoming her along on this adventure. She will miss every part of this dearly, and there's the rub. Love to you all!



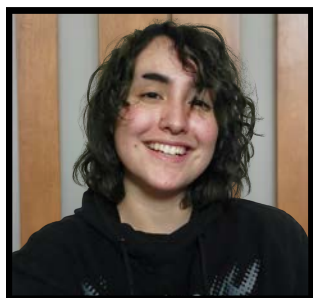
Laurice Macaraeg (*Stage Manager*)

Laurice returns to AST, having previously lent her cunning and craft to the merry mischief of *Little Shop of Horrors* (Spring 2025). A jack-of-all-trades of the theatre, she has worn many hats—lighting the stage, treading the boards, conjuring props, and keeping the chaos in line as stage manager—for a host of companies far and wide. Now she sets her sights on Shakespeare in Love, eager to help spin its wit and wonder into something that will charm and tickle every audience lucky enough to behold it. With quill in one hand and cue sheet in the other, she helps steer this bold company through tempest and triumph alike. She offers heartfelt thanks to Kamotes, HB, ZWR, CH, and the POM team—her constant co-conspirators in this grand theatrical adventure.



Peter Thorman (*Set Designer, Head Builder*)

Peter has designed and built sets for many productions, both for AST as well as other local professional and community theatre companies. Past work with AST includes *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *My Fair Lady*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Addams Family*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Cinderella* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.



Len Calderon (*Set Paint Designer, Head Painter*)

Len is a graphic designer and illustrator who loves cosplay, singing, and dancing. They've helped with set painting for previous AST works, and are excited to help bring the show to life alongside the cast and crew with their design and painting skills.



Hussein Esmail (*Lighting Designer/Technician*)

Hussein has worked in theatre for over 10 years. In that time, he has held many roles such as being a Theatre Technician, Lighting Designer, Stage Manager, Technical Director, Sound Designer, and Assistant Producer. He is also a graduate of Computer Science (BSc) at York University. Some recent mentions of things he's worked on; *The Woman Who Ate Felafel* at 2023 Fringe (2023, Lighting Design), *Son of the Horse Lord* (2024, Lighting Design, Sound Design), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (2025, Lighting Design). He is eager to continue helping where he can when he can. To learn more about Hussein, please feel free to visit <https://husseinesmail.xyz>



Charlotte Théraud (*Lighting Designer/Operator*)

Charlotte Théraud has always had a passion for theatre on and off the stage. She worked for Vanier College Productions as Lighting Technical Director on their productions of *Bring it On* (2024), *Kinky Boots* (2025) and *Show Choir* (24/25) among others. She was also the Stage Manager for the Fringe show *Cow* (2025). When she's not working in theatre, she's still helping stories come to life, but on the big screen, as an Assistant Director. Last year, she worked on AST's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, and she is very excited to be back for this year's production of *Shakespeare in Love*!



Connor Paterson (*Lighting Technician*)

Working with AST officially for the first time, Connor is a recent graduate of TMU's Performance Production program. Since then he has been to venues across the city, from scotiabank area to being a venue technician for the 2025 Toronto Fringe Festival. When not working backstage, he plays Dungeons and Dragons at his local game store. Thanks to Vinnie and Gwyneth for the opportunity to work on this amazing show, and the support they have shown for my career.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

1987	Trial By Jury	2010	Cabaret The Fantasticks
1989	The Mikado	2011	My Fair Lady It's a Wonderful Life
1990	Pirates of Penzance	2012	Man of La Mancha It's a Wonderful Life Mambo Italiano
1991	H.M.S Pinafore	2013	Young Frankenstein The Crucible
1992	The Gondoliers	2014	The Mystery of Edwin Drod A Christmas Carol
1993	Yeomen of the Guard	2015	Sweeney Todd Lend Me A Tenor
1994	Pirates of Penzance	2016	The Addams Family A Christmas Carol
1995	Oklahoma	2017	Kiss Me Kate Pygmalion 30th Anniversary
1996	Ruddigore	2018	The Hunchback of Notre Dame
1997	The Mikado	2019	Guys & Dolls 12 Angry Jurors
1998	Fiddler on the Roof	2022	Cinderella Anne of Green Gables: A Radio Play
1999	The Merry Widow	2023	Anything Goes Music Hall Revue
2000	Sweeney Todd H.M.S Pinafore	2024	Anastasia Son of the Horse Lord
2001	Die Fledermaus	2025	Little Shop of Horrors
2002	Iolanthe		
2003	The Gondoliers		
2004	The Most Happy Fella		
2005	The Mikado		
2006	Fiddler on the Roof		
2007	Pirates of Penzance		
2008	Guys & Dolls		
2009	Yeomen of the Guard		

Remembering Our Founder



Angela McIntosh Hawaleshka
(December 14, 1936 - October 19, 2019)

Our beloved Angela passed away in the early morning hours of Saturday, October 19, 2019, with her devoted husband, Fred, at her side. Of proud Scottish roots, Angela was born in Berkhamsted, UK. She is survived by her brother-in-law, niece, nephew and many great and great-great nieces and nephews in the UK.

Angela was a brilliant, respected and unique teacher, a staunch and supportive friend, and an unwavering believer in, and nurturer of, the possibilities within everyone she knew. She founded and loved The Alexander Singers (the summer choir that never stopped!), which grew into The Alexander Singers and Players (as the group began to perform Gilbert and Sullivan operettas) and finally became Alexander Showcase Theatre (as they transitioned to performing Broadway shows).

She has left this world a better place.